## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining an appropriate character set for use in client-server communications, comprising at least one of:
- (a) selecting a character set for a client request made by client to a server using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation; and if the client request does not include the request character set designation[[,]]:

- (i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request; and
- (ii) associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and
- (b) selecting a response character set for a response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation[[,]]:

- (i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response; and
- (ii) associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data.

- 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation by accessing a converter lookup table which maps the code-set converter designation with the request character set designation.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped with response character set designation.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the code-set converter designation is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.

- 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A server computer system connected to at least one client computer, the server computer system comprising a memory containing a codeset program and at least one processor, wherein the processor, when executing the code-set program, is configured to:

determine if a request header composed according to a network communications protocol received with a client request from the at least one client computer designates a character set; and

- if [[not,]] the request header does not designate the character set:
  - (i) retrieve locale information from the client request; and
  - (ii) associate the locale information with a character set.
- 13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor is further configured to associate the character set with a code-set converter.
- 14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the locale information contains a language identifier.
- 15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the code-set converter is a JVM code-set converter.
- 16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing at least a code-set program which, when executed by a server computer, performs operations comprising at least one of:
- (a) selecting a character set for a client request made by client computer to a server computer using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

  determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation, and

Page 4

if the client request does not include the request character set designation[[,]]:

- (i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request; and
- (ii) associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and
- (b) selecting a response character set for a server response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation[[,]]:

- (i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response; and
- (ii) associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).
- 18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.
- 19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation by accessing a converter lookup table which maps the code-set converter designation with the request character set designation.

Page 5

- 20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.
- 21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.
- 22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising associating the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation.
- 23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped with response character set designation.
- 24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the code-set converter designation is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.
- 25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) code-set converter.
- 26. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.
- 27. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.